# THE EVENING TIMES.

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## LIGHTENING THE BURDEN.

Senator McMillan's amendment to the District appropriation bill is the first ray of light that has penetrated the gloom of the controversy over the financial condition and obligations of the District with reference to more important municipal improvements now contemplated. The chairman of the District Committee of the Senate understands and appreciates—as should anyone who has given the subject even passing thought—that it would be the harshest kind of injustice to compel the taxpayers here to pay for such improvements out of current revenues, or, this being impossible, to hold all these improvements in abeyance.

Mr. McMillan proposes that the United States shall advance to the District treasury annually the amount of the deficit arising from the excess of expenditures over revenues, such amount to be refunded with interest at the rate of two per cent a year. While we still adhere to the opinion that it would have been better to have resorted to a bond issue at the same rate of interest, the bonds being redeemable in thirty years and maturing in fifty, the plan advanced by the Michigan Senator is vastly better than anything else that has thus far been proposed in either branch of Congress.

If Mr. McMillan's amendment is adopted—and there is no good ground for assuming the contrary—but one thing more need be done to put the District financially "on easy street." After it has been ascertained how much the United States owes the local treasury on account of the failure of Congress to observe the terms of its own compact, let that sum be set down to the credit of the District, as an offset to the various deficits that may arise in the next few years. By the time that such amount will have been exhausted, and if Congress lives up to its self-assumed obligations in the future, property values will have increased to such an extent that there will be no need for further advances from the National Treasury thereafter.

## MODERN BARBARISM

In a recent volume of essays, Herbert Spencer, now eighty-two years old, discusses what he calls the re-barbarization of society. He points out that society is not yet wholly civilized, and that there are from time to time reactions toward barbarism. Most people as old as he is have seen one or two such reactions, particularly if they are intelligent men, who have been earnest in helping forward the civilization of their own day.

This is a point which it is well to keep in mind; namely, that the world is civilized only in spots, thus far. It should further be remembered that these spots are not large enough to cover any one country, or even a section of that country, though they do become what might be called confinent, here and there. Even in the same family, it is sometimes evident that one member is civilized and the other, to all intents and purposes, a barbarian.

There is doubtless a wise plan in this peculiar evolution of things, for what we call civilization is not all so beneficent that we could not profitably go back to the beginning and start over again now and then.

The sifting of the ages results in the evolution of traditions which fit the enlightened human sense of what is right and good, and also in traditions which are a great convenience to the educated human impulse toward iniquity. In other words, in a civilized state of society it is made easy for those who want to be good, to satisfy their inclination, and also for the wicked to attain a more finished state of sin than would be possible in barbarism. It is hardly possible to conceive of a savage being such a fiend as some men with all the advantages of education have shown themselves to be. Therefore, it is profitable to remember that a civilization which does not refine away the barbaric impulse has not done all of its work.

## DANIEL S. LAMONT---A Newspaper Man Who Has Become a Railroad Power.

IT IS not necessary to know much about the origin of Daniel Simpson Lamont, except that he was of the hardy and acquisitive Scotch race and was born in central New York, of parents to whom he had been tenderly devoted up to the last day.

Somehow he got to Albany, and, doubtless turning his hand to the first kind of work that presented itself, became an errand boy in a newspaper office. But he also learned to write, and became reporter, and then, still better, a political reporter, for it isn't everybody that understands about political affairs well enough to write about them intelligently and intelligibly.

As a political writer, going to conventions, getting the confidence of public men and not abusing it, thinking out political schemes of his own now and then (all for the use of his friends, who must needs appear more prominently in these affairs than he), doing all this, it was inevitable that Mr. Lamont should attract the attention of public people of the first order. And Grover Cleveland, Governor of New York, and living in Albany, was not the least of these.

Mr. Cleveland became attached to Mr. Lamont because this young political writer gave him a political idea one day which he himself might not have thought of in a year. But the man was steady and patient, and faithful and trustworthy all the while; so that when Mr. Cleveland was looking about for a Governor's private secretary, nothing more natural than that Daniel Lamont should be chosen.

That was the time when opportunity came along and knocked at this newspaper man's front door. It was easy for this kind of man to be an excellent private secretary. And when Grover Cleveland was elected President, nothing so natural as that the same faithful and discreet and imaginative person should accompany him to Washington. Mr. Lamont's work as a President's private secretary is still a tradition and prophecy in Washington. There has been none better. Perhaps no other private secretary to a President has approached him.

My! How he did run things without seeming to do it at all, pretending to give the news to everybody, but really getting the news out of everybody; acting the diplomat in important family matters as well as in the affairs of state; becoming, by the law of natural selection (especially since he himself had made money in New York in the interim), Mr. Cleveland's second Secretary of War. In years of peace there is nothing in the world for a Secretary of War to do. Yet Mr. Lamont did things as Secretary of War. He reorganized some of the bureaus, and especially did he paddle the Cleveland political canoe, and always it needed paddling.

Then came the Secretary of War to New York again. He had made money, and now he made more. He made it in everything that he touched, partly because he didn't touch too many things; for if there is any leading financier of New York city who accounts it his practice never to make a mistake, it is Colonel Daniel Simpson Lamont, vice-president of the Northern Pacific Railroad. He is other big things in Wall Street. Everybody trusts him—and has reason to. He meets James J. Hill at the station, and is important enough for this colossus of the Northwest to talk to for several hours at a time.

Mr. Lamont, sitting in the Northern Pacific offices at 47 Wall Street, seems small; but notice how quiet and thoughtful he is. What a virtue is continence in speech! And who exemplifies this any better than the thrifty little man from "up the State," who doesn't care how little he seems to control things if he really does control them?

## PASSAGE OF ISTHMIAN CANAL BILL WOULD BENEFIT THE GULF STATES

By Representative JOHN H. STEPHENS of Texas.

THE passage of the Isthmian Canal bill would be of especial benefit to all States having an outlet to the Gulf of Mexico, for the reason that it will shorten the routes to the Asiatic ports very greatly. It would also admit of cheaper freight rates across the country, by giving water instead of railroad transportation.

At present a great deal of the wheat grown in the Gulf States and consigned to ports in the Orient is shipped across the continent by rail or round Cape Horn by steamer. The construction of an isthmian canal would admit of it being loaded on boats at the gulf ports and unloaded at Hongkong or any other of the ports of the Orient. Texas would be especially benefited, because Galveston is nearer the proposed canal than any other port in the United States.

I prefer the Nicaraguan route for two reasons: First, I think it is the most practicable and feasible one. Second, because it is much shorter in distance from all of the gulf ports by way of this route to all ports in the Orient, than by way of the Panama route.

I also think that the recent volcanic disturbances show that the Panama route is more subject to volcanic disturbances than the Nicaraguan route would be.

## OPPORTUNITY FOR AMERICA TO DO GOOD TO ALL MANKIND

By Hon. ROBERT W. WILCOX, Delegate From Hawaii.

I HAVE introduced a bill providing that the Government of the United States shall establish a leper reservation on the site of the present leper colony at Kalaupapa, Molokai, which is now controlled and supported by the Territory of Hawaii. The tract contains 8,000 acres, and is located on a peninsula on one side of the island of Molokai, 1,000 feet below the rest of the islands.

At the present time there are upward of 1,000 lepers in the colony, mostly Hawaiians, but still a number of white men and Chinese. It costs the Territory of Hawaii $100,000 annually to support the colony.

The object of my bill is to transfer the colony into a Federal leper reservation by placing it in the hands of the United States Treasury, and under the supervision of the Marine Hospital Corps of the United States.

There are now about 300 lepers in the United States. The establishment in the Orient of a leper reservation by the United States would result in great good. Experts could be employed to go there and study the dread disease, and ultimately they would fix upon a remedy. This would not only be of benefit to the United States and Hawaii, but to the whole world.

The fact that the United States would establish a leper colony there, would admit of the deportation from this country at once of all those at present suffering from the disease. But the main object of the establishment of a Federal leper reservation should be the employment of experts to fix upon effective treatment to cure the lepers.

## QUEER THINGS FROM THE CLOUDS

NEW YORK'S recent shower of muddy rain is one of those phenomena which, though not common, occur at long intervals in all parts of the world. Not long ago, at Flume, in Austria, there was a heavy fall of half-frozen, brownish snow, and in Italy and some parts of Germany there was a downpour of red rain. It was found upon investigation that the brown snow of Flume was caused by the admixture of sand which had been blown from the Desert of Sahara, hundreds of miles away, across the Mediterranean, and the red rain was not a deluge of blood, as the peasants thought, but was due to the presence of quantities of minute infusora, which somehow had been drawn up into the heavens and let down again when the clouds fell as rain.

A singular phenomenon of this sort occurred in Venezuela some time ago, when colored hailstones fell in the State of Zamora. There was first a heavy thunderstorm, with much rain, and then, after a while, the hail came down in such abundance that hundreds of bushels of hailstones might have been gathered. Some of the hailstones weighed as much as two ounces. It is well known that in the tropics hailstorms are exceedingly rare in places situated in the lowlands. But this hailstorm was particularly remarkable on account of the color of the hailstones, some of which were whitish, while others were blue, green, rose color or red.

Schwedoff, who, in his memoir on the origin of hailstorms, describes a fall of similarly colored hailstones which fell at Minsk, in Prussia, in the month of June, thinks that the colors are due to the presence of nickel and salts of cobalt, and that the phenomenon confirms his hypothesis of the cosmic origin of hail. There have been many well-authenticated cases where, after a heavy rain, the ground has been found strewn with small fish which have dropped from the clouds, and even young frogs, scarcely out of their tadpole state, have been known to descend upon the wings of the storm. One theory is that all these foreign substances are carried up into the clouds by whirlwinds, and another that the least bulky of them, such as minute infusora, are caught up in the process of evaporation.—New York Mail and Express.

## Moral Maxims.

There is a lady somewhere in this country, known to one of the newspaper writers on home decorations, who has a screen decorated with moral maxims. These sayings are printed in ornamental type and scattered over the surface of the screen and among them are such as this:

"Do your work as well as you can—and be kind.

And this:

"We are all children in the kindergarten of God."

This lady expresses the earnest desire that things of this nature might be printed and pasted up in the street cars, in place of the advertisements now there. Without wishing to show any disrespect to the very worthy sentiments expressed in these maxims, most thoughtful people will exclaim, "Heaven forbid!"

But nothing of the kind is likely to happen, and this suggestion is only worthy of note as typifying the rabid desire which some people have to make the very pavements on the street teach a lesson. It is bad enough to have staring advertisements all over the landscape, but there is one thing which would be worse, and that would be moral quotations. This is not because moral sentiments are not good in their place, but because their place is not everywhere. They should be kept in mind, embodied in actions, enshrined in people's hearts, but not stuck up in large letters where they will weary the eye.

It is a lamentable fact that when a moral sentiment becomes commonplace by repetition its value is practically gone, for such is the perversity of human nature that a command often repeated begets a wild desire for disobedience, or at best produces an unconquerable indifference to the subject.

## SEEING SNAKES.

A good story is going the rounds just now about Curator Raymond L. Ditmars, of the New York Zoological Park. It appears that Mr. Ditmars was having trouble with the heating apparatus of the snake house, and steam fitters had been at work all day repairing it. When night came Mr. Ditmars determined to stay on duty himself and see that the temperature was kept up. Now Mr. Ditmars is, in collaboration with James N. Baskett, engaged in writing "The Story of the Amphibians and Reptiles," soon to be published, and he thought that he could employ the time between trips to the thermometer in working on his book.

Shortly after midnight Mr. Ditmars was interrupted by the entrance of Snyder, the head keeper. There was a peculiar look in his eye and he was unmistakably scared. Before the curator could ask for an explanation two under-keepers entered in the same frightened state. In response to injuiries they managed to tell of some wonderful apparition that had appeared behind the turtle tank. Led by the curator, armed with a revolver, they proceeded cautiously to the place mentioned, crawling on all-fours as they neared the tank. Sure enough, out of the darkness appeared two luminous eyes as big as small saucers and a tremendous mouth full of fiery teeth!

What could it be? The curator thought it might be a snake got loose. But, no! It was too big! The curator was about to fire, but Snyder for some unaccountable reason restrained him. The thing moved! Again the revolver was raised, and again Snyder's restraining hand touched the curator's arm.

"What in——" and then it dawned on the curator.

"Come here with a light and we'll see what it is," said Snyder, and there in the glare of the lantern lay a half-rotten log, rotten to the point of phosphorescence, while a stout cord led from the log to the exact spot where Snyder had crouched trembling beside Ditmars behind the turtle tank.

"Mr. Ditmars," said Snyder presently, when he had quite gotten over his paleness, "do you remember the day when I was green, and when a harmless blacksnake bit me and you told me I had just two hours to live?"

## The Coronation Ceremonies.

Some American observers seem to be badly worried over the amount of time and thought which King Edward is supposed to be giving to the details of the coronation ceremonies. They have a good deal to say about the needs of the empire and the disproportionate importance ascribed to the length of court trains and the size of coronets and so on. Of course, their opinion will not make much difference to King Edward, but, at any rate, they are free with it.

It may be funny to see grown people concerning themselves with a pageant of this sort simply because it has been tradition for a thousand years or so, but it is possibly funnier to see other grown people criticising with such violence things which are none of their business and which they apparently do not exactly understand. In the first place, as everybody knows, the position of the head of the English royal family is not one of any great power. The real government is in the hands of Parliament, and the Boer war is not personally conducted by King Edward at all, whereas the coronation is—that is, it is in the hands of his majesty and certain court officials. It is not probable that the King is giving all his time and thought to the details of his own and other people's clothes, however, and it is likely that some of the decrees issued in regard to these things are merely approved by him as a matter of form, and are really decided upon by subordinates. Moreover, all of these decrees are important to the people who are to wear the clothes, and of interest to the general public; therefore they are published. The fact that a column is devoted to the subject of clothes, in the news from London, and only half a column to the affairs of South Africa indicates not that the King of England is giving twice as much thought to clothes as to affairs of state, but that the American public is, just at present, just twice as much interested in the former as in the latter.

It is perfectly excusable not to take such a vivid interest in the matter of the court costumes to be worn at the coronation, King Edward and Queen Alexandra, and their various functionaries will probably arrange all that without the aid of the American people. Moreover, while one may suit one's taste about having such a function or not having it; if it is to be had at all it ought to be done right. The English people prefer coronations to inaugurations, and they like them with all the little quaint traditional ceremonies, each one of which has a story from one to nine hundred years old connected with it. They do not complain of us for having our President walk out and take the oath, dressed in a simple suit of American-made cloth. Why should we complain of them for booming the ermine market and furnishing the American papers with columns of literature about the length of court trains and the social politics of the august function?

## QUERIES.

If men are living on some stars,
I wonder how things are on Mars.

Do fashions make the Martians grieve?
And do advertisements deceive?

Do agents for dramatic rot
Assert they have what they have not?

Are jewels lost to boom a show?
Are scandals sold to make men go?

Have they the peg-top trousers there?
And trailing skirts do women wear?

Do girls for wealth and title strive,
Because of which divorce courts thrive?

Does glitter there the mind enchant?
And have they much of foolish cant?

Is all their sympathy for foes,
Regardless of their soldiers' woes?

Do they court-martial men who fight,
And claim the foe is always right?

Do wheelmen there forget the light
As they go scorching through the night?

Do automobiles wildly race
At most unlawful, frightful pace?

And are the people up in Mars
Forever dodging trolley cars?

And are they ruled in politics
By shameless demagogic tricks?

Do men at times reforms promote,
And for reform forget to vote?

Do their assessors need an ax
To part the rich man from his tax?

Do men combine, by some device,
To put the food at higher price?

Well, if these things they do not do,
I'd like to go there—wouldn't you?
—Elliott Flower in the Brooklyn Eagle.

## Why America Should Receive the Statue of Frederick the Great

By Representative LLEWELLYN POWERS, Former Governor of Maine.

I SEE no good reason why the United States should not accept from Emperor William of Germany a statue of Frederick the Great, in the spirit in which it is offered, and when it is received, it is due to the Germans and the German element in this country that it should be given a prominent site in this, the Capital of the greatest nation the world has ever known. What place is most fitting I apprehend the President will be fitted to rightly judge.

I certainly think that if it is like the one in Berlin, it will be a very creditable addition to the collection of fine statues now erected at the Capital of the United States.

While I do not think that Frederick the Great was a representative of the principles of free government, yet I believe he was one of the greatest generals, one of the greatest military geniuses, and one of the greatest statesmen of his age. I further believe that he heartily sympathized with this country in its struggles for liberty and a republican form of government.

## THE KAISER'S REALM IS A GENUINE FATHERLAND

By WALTER WILLIAMS, in the "St Louis Globe-Democrat."

GERMANY is really a fatherland. The Emperor is the father and the people are the children. They have more freedom than one would suppose, and, on the other hand, less independence of action. The Reichstag blocks the way of many pet measures of the Emperor and yet the government controls the minutest actions of its subjects with an iron hand. In the imperial parliament a Socialist—member of a party which is rapidly gaining headway in Germany—makes half-veiled utterance in favor of a republic while just outside a German may not change his boarding house without the permission of the police. There is more free speech and less free action than would be expected.

It is difficult to get lost in Germany. Nobody can commit suicide. The government will hang him first. Paternalism runs riot. Red tape should be on the coat-of-arms of the German official everywhere. He believes in ceremony, in system, in brilliant uniforms. No soldier, entering a cafe or restaurant, may take a seat until he has saluted the lieutenant who may happen to be present and secured from him permission to sit down. The advocates and opponents of municipal ownership can both find arguments in German cities to support their respective theories.

The railways are owned and operated by the government. The unoccupied space along the railroad right of way, beside or between the tracks is leased for market gardens, and the rental money turned into the national treasury, or, under the government's own direction, fruit trees are planted and the fruit sold. Imperial cherries may be bought in Berlin, grown along the imperial railway lines. There's paternalism, plus thrift. The German Emperor maximizes the nation and minimizes the individual. The motto, so familiar to Missourians, "United we stand, divided we fall," might well be put beneath the black eagle upon the German coat-of-arms. While the nation moves as one man under the direction of a strong, centralized government, it is well-nigh invincible. Divided—and there's another and an entirely different story.

All Germans are not Germans. There are some Germans who are not Germans, but Austrians. These two paradoxical statements give hint to the condition which menaces the peace of Europe. There are Germans who are Prussians, Bavarians, what not, before they are Germans. There are some 8,000,000 Germans in the dual monarchy of Austro-Hungary, under the lordship of the aged and beloved Emperor Francis Joseph, who are Germans before they are Austrians. There is a north and south question in Germany, as there was a North and South question in the United States. In the opinion of some careful observers, it is intensifying, while others say it is gradually fading away. When Emperor Francis Joseph passes from the stage of earth's activities there may be one of the periodical upheavals which change the map of central Europe.

No European nation likes any other European nation, save that France coquets constantly with Russia, and the Russian bear responds affectionately. Otherwise the attitude of all Europe is jealousy of every neighbor. This explains the fact that Europe is one great military camp. Not only is there constant dread of social and political upheavals, to suppress which an army is needed, but Germany maintains her military force to keep France and Russia off her back. So, in different degree, but for the same defensive reasons, do other countries maintain their immense military establishments.

The proposition of the Czar of Russia for universal peace by universal disarmament met with cold response in Europe. Each nation was afraid to lay down its gun, lest its neighbor grab it. A better plan to escape the burden of large standing armies in all nations would be to organize an international army trust. Establish trust headquarters and hire an army of any desired size to any nation needing it. Each nation could then devote its attention altogether to the arts of peace and, when war was declared, call on the trust to furnish regiments and brigades, ammunition and men. Here is the scheme in the rough. Any trust magnate could work out the details without difficulty. The dreamers of the universal peace union might well turn their attention to this more practical plan.

## SOUTHERN CHILD LABOR

THE shameful story of "children in the mills" — some of them mere babes out of arms—is generally supposed to be a matter of the past. It is recorded in the British parliamentary reports of two generations ago, reciting how relays of children of tender years wore out their lives night and day in English textile mills and slept in beds never allowed to get cold. It is also recorded in the history of the factories of this country, especially in New England, and of not so long as two generations ago.

But factory laws have made a radical change in these conditions, and children under fourteen, or at least thirteen, years of age are not, as a rule, supposed to be employed in the mills of Great Britain or of our Northern States. In parts of the continent of Europe, too—largely with a view to the military vigor of adults—children are even more carefully protected.

In the 700 textile mills, however, of the South, most of which have sprung up during the last generation—largely under the direction of Northern men—the fatuous and revolting drama of child labor is now being re-enacted, and in a manner to rival the pitiable incidents of earlier days. Nor does the subject appear even to have been actively inquired into or agitated until a young English woman, Mrs. Irene Ashby McFadden, who was studying social conditions in this country a year and a half ago, turned aside to look into the matter of child labor in Southern cotton mills.

In the almost complete absence of factory legislation in the South and so of official data on the subject, and in the absence also of any other sources of reliable information, she went directly to the mills themselves. She visited twenty-four in sixteen different towns of Alabama in a few weeks, and although entrance to factories was afterward made difficult, she pursued her inquiries in several States until a body of definite information sufficient to make a strong plea for legislation was secured.

She estimates that from 6 to 15 per cent of the employes in Southern cotton mills are children under twelve years of age. In a great number of cases the ages run down to nine and even to six years. The hours are twelve per day. The children's hands are frequently found to have been maimed. Their wages may fall as low as 15 or 20 cents a day, and such cheap labor is, of course, constantly tending to pull down the pay of adults. Child labor thus produces the very excuse urged for it—namely, the necessity for all members of the family to "go into the mill" to earn sufficient for family subsistence.

The bill introduced into the last Legislature of Alabama to regulate the labor of children only reached the stage of public hearings—which were largely attended. But the agitation in favor of such legislation is gaining organized strength, and it is inevitable that factory legislation for the protection of children should ultimately be adopted in the South as it has been elsewhere in the manufacturing world. Indeed, it ought everywhere to be recognized at this age of "modern progress" that the exploitation of the strength of young children, on howsoever plausible pleas—and least of all on the preposterous claim that a great industry can only survive thus—is a grave social blunder.

All unprejudiced persons will commend the efforts being made in the South to take the tender children out of the cotton mills and give them instead the play and schooling which befit their age.—Chicago Tribune.

## VIEWS ON THE CORONATION.

"Cassell's Saturday Journal" prints some amusing boys' compositions on the coronation. A boy of ten writes: "It is the priverledge of the lord mare to wash and dress the king the day he is crowned, the archbishop of centerberry will ask the king to say an oath, and when he has done this he will wash the feet of 12 poor peepul and rise up an ointment king." One boy says of the King, that, "although he is a rooler, he is a clever man with tack. He has such respeck for himself that he wrote a new poum for the Corunation called God save our grashus king. his majesty will sing this himself wile he is being crowned with pompersniss in westminster abbey." Another boy states that the prisons will be emptied on coronation day; the prisoners "will see the crowning like rispektable people and then go back haplly to prison again." The Duke of Norfolk, "who is a gold stick," we are told, "will set off skwibs and, as the prime duke of England, will see that everything is nice and solum."